

Categorical Exclusion

Project Name

Granite Construction Mineral Materials Exploration Permit Application

Sierra Front Field Office

Carson City

Nevada

89701

775-885-6000

Categorical Exclusion Review

Background

Granite Construction Company (Granite) is proposing exploration activities (Project) in Washoe County, Nevada.

BLM Office:

LLNVC02000

Lease/Serial/Case File No.:

N-93904

Location of Proposed Action:

Located on a portion of Washoe County Assessor's Parcel 084-060-16 in the southwest quarter of Section 8, Township 19 North, Range 21 East (Project Area) (Figure 1).

Description of Proposed Action:

Granite is proposing to commence exploration activities in the fall of 2015. The proposed exploration activities would include a maximum of six drill sites and approximately 5,924 linear feet of new access road on public land administered by the BLM SFFO (Figure 1). No overland travel would occur within the Project Area. Each drill site would require a drill pad of approximately 20 feet by 60 feet (1,200 square feet or 0.03 acre). The total disturbance associated with the six drill pads would be 0.2 acre. The access road would be approximately 30-feet wide, consisting of a 15 foot travel way and 7.5 feet on each side of the road for drainage ditches and side slopes. Total proposed disturbance associated with the access road would be approximately 4.1 acres.

Land Use Plan Conformance

Land Use Plan Name: Nevada, Carson City Consolidated Resource Management Plan

Date Approved/Amended: May 2001

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUP because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decision(s):

Continue to provide mineral material commodities to the using public (CRMP/MIN-5).

Compliance with NEPA:

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 2, Appendix 1, or 516 DM 11.9,

This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The proposed action has been reviewed, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 516 DM 2 apply.

The applicable section is: F(9) "Digging of exploratory trenches for mineral materials, except in riparian areas."

I considered the following:

Impacts on Public Health and Safety

1. Does the proposed action have significant impacts on public health and safety?		
YES	NO	REVIEWER/TITLE
	X	Dan Erbes, Geologist
	X	Brian Buttazoni, Planning & Environmental Coordinator

Impacts on Natural Resources or Unique Geographic Characteristics

2. Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness or wilderness study areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds (Executive Order 13186); and other ecologically significant or critical areas?

YES	NO	REVIEWER/TITLE
	X	Arthur Callan, Outdoor Recreation Planner
	X	Alicia Alfaro, Archeologist
	X	Niki Cutler, Hydrologist
	X	Pilar Ziegler, Wildlife Biologist

Level of Controversy

3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)]?

YES	NO	REVIEWER/TITLE
	X	Dan Erbes, Geologist
	X	Brian Buttazoni, Planning & Environmental Coordinator

Highly Uncertain or Unique or Unknown Environmental Risks

4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?

YES	NO	REVIEWER/TITLE
	X	Dan Erbes, Geologist
	X	Brian Buttazoni, Planning & Environmental Coordinator

Precedent Setting

5. Establish a precedent for future action, or represent a decision in principle about future actions, with potentially significant environmental effects?

YES	NO	REVIEWER/TITLE
	X	Dan Erbes, Geologist
	X	Brian Buttazoni, Planning & Environmental Coordinator

Cumulatively Significant Effects

6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant, environmental effects?

YES	NO	REVIEWER/TITLE
	X	Dan Erbes, Geologist
	X	Brian Buttazoni, Planning & Environmental Coordinator

Impacts on Cultural Properties

7. Have significant impacts on properties listed or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the Bureau or office?

YES	NO	REVIEWER/TITLE
	X	Alicia Alfaro, Archeologist

Impacts on Federally Listed Species or Critical Habitat

8. Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species?		
YES	NO	REVIEWER/TITLE
	X	Pilar Ziegler, Wildlife Biologist

Compliance with Laws

9. Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment?		
YES	NO	REVIEWER/TITLE
	X	Brian Buttazoni, Planning & Environmental Coordinator

Environmental Justice

10. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898)?		
YES	NO	REVIEWER/TITLE
	X	Brian Buttazoni, Planning & Environmental Coordinator

Sacred Sites

11. Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners, or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007)?


YES	NO	REVIEWER/TITLE
	X	Alicia Alfaro, Archeologist

Noxious and Non-Native Invasive Species

12. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area, or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112)?

YES	NO	REVIEWER/TITLE
	X	Dean Tonenna, Botanist

Approval Information

Leon Thomas Field Manager ACTING		Date 9-9-2015
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This categorical exclusion worksheet does not constitute the decision to approve this project. See accompanying decision record for appeal information.